

directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details

Permit Application: 2015–012

1. *Applicant:* Dr. Stephanie Jenouvrier, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA 02453.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested: The applicant intends to collect a multi-scale and temporal baseline data set on the largest cluster of Adelie penguin breeding colonies in the Antarctic Peninsula (AP). The area near the Danger Islands in the Weddell Sea (eastern AP) may account for half of the total breeding population of Adelie penguins in the AP, yet these colonies are little known. Penguin population shifts have been documented in the western AP and this study will help reduce uncertainty for the eastern AP populations.

Take, Import, Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Areas: The applicant intends to obtain small samples of blood, tissue, feathers, and eggshells from Macaroni, Gentoo, Chinstrap, and Adélie penguin colonies the Antarctic Peninsula. Organic remains in soil samples will also be collected. Samples taken at the sites will be sent back to the United States and the United Kingdom for analysis. The breeding sites will be censused by ground or by a hexacopters-based aerial photography system.

Location: The focus of the study is the penguin colonies in the Danger Islands, Antarctic Sounds, Antarctic Peninsula. Should weather conditions preclude this area, the focus will shift to Elephant Island and vicinity, Low Island and vicinity and/or the South Shetland Islands. Visits may include the following ASPA's: ASPA No. 151, Lions Rump, King George Is; ASPA No. 126, Byers Peninsula, Livingston Island; ASPA No. 152, West Bransfield, Low Island; ASPA No. 132, Potter Peninsula; ASPA No. 128, West Admiralty Bay; ASPA No. 150, Ardley Island; ASPA No. 133, Harmony Point; and ASPA No. 149, Cape Shirreff.

Dates: 1 December 2015 through 30 June 2016.

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Polar Coordination Specialist, Division of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 2015–24005 Filed 9–21–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Modification Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of Permit Modification Request Received and Permit Issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Public Law 95–541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of requests to modify permits issued to conduct activities regulated and permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act at Title 45 Part 671 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of a requested permit modification and permit issued.

DATES: September 16, 2015 to March 15, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Li Ling Hamady, ACA Permit Officer, Division of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Or by email: ACApermits@nsf.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Foundation issued a permit (ACA 2012–WM–001) to Dr. George Watters on September 29, 2011. The issued permit allows the applicant to run a field camp including deployment of instruments (radio tags on animals) and use of hazardous materials including radio isotopes. A recent modification to this permit, dated December 21, 2013, permitted the applicant to install up to 12 remote, autonomous, and easily removable camera systems near breeding aggregations of Adélie, gentoo, and chinstrap penguins throughout ASPA #128 on King George Island. The cameras will provide time-lapse photography during breeding and non-breeding seasons to estimate key monitoring parameters such as arrival timing, reproductive chronology and success, chick production, overwinter attendance, and census data. Now the applicant proposes a permit modification to install up to 22 of these cameras within ASPA 128 The Environmental Officer has reviewed the

modification request and has determined that the amendment is not a material change to the permit, and it will have a less than a minor or transitory impact.

The permit modification was issued on September 16, 2015.

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Polar Coordination Specialist, Division of Polar Programs.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–541)

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of Permit Applications Received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, (Pub. L. 95–541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–227).

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act at Title 45 Part 671 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by October 22, 2015. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Room 755, Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Polly A. Penhale, Environmental Officer, at the above address or ACApermits@nsf.gov or (703) 292–7149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–227), has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and certain geographic areas requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit